

FUSION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

By Col. A. K. McCLURE,

CHAIRMAN OF THE PEOPLES' STATE COMMITTEE.

Philadelphia, Oct. 6, 1860.

Last evening the spacious Wigwam, at Sixth and Parish streets, was filled to overflowing by an enthusiastic audience. At the appointed time the hammer came down on the pedestal, and Mr. Malone Watson was called to the chair.

Mr. McClure was introduced by the President to the vast audience, and was greeted with the wildest enthusiasm. When order was restored he proceeded to discuss the issues involved in the pending contest, and which, as he urged, must be to a great degree, if not absolutely, determined by the verdict of the people on Tuesday next. He discussed the tariff in a clear and forcible manner, and appealed to the laboring men to vote for Messrs. Butler, Morris, Verree, Kelley and Davis, and for the nominees of the People's party for the Legislature, because every vote cast for these gentlemen would be a declaration not to be misunderstood, in favor of the honor, the dignity and the prosperity of our industry. His allusions to the several candidates, and his defence of the great doctrine of Protection were greeted with frequent and hearty rounds of applause.

He next referred to the efforts of the different elements to form a fusion against our candidates. He said:

There are three gentlemen at the head of as many different organizations, as Chairmen of Committees, and their efforts, with all the outside aid that could be commanded, have been devoted to a fusion of the Breckenridge Dis-

unionists, the Douglas Popular Sovereignty men and the Bell Union men; but fusion itself has proved to be the greatest confusion of the season. [Laughter and applause.] They met at Harrisburg, and had long and frequent consultations, caucuses, love-quarrels and reconciliations. The great difficulty was as to which should be Jonah and which the whale—[laughter]—which the monkey and which the elephant. [Renewed laughter and applause.] Each heartily wished the other in the slough of despair, if only all need not go together; for each feared that the others would gain an advantage in the end, if it were possible to succeed. After carefully considering the question, it was determined that there was no way by which a part of John Bell, and a part of Stephen A. Douglas, and a part of John C. Breckenridge, could be made President; the ordinary rules of fractions, either vulgar or compound, being entirely unequal to the case. [Shouts of laughter.] Another difficulty arose. Even when the leaders did get within range of an agreement, as to how much their respective ranks and files were worth, they were perplexed as to how they could make a fusion, and yet appear not to do it. [Laughter.] If we fuse now, said one, the Press, the Doylestown Democrat, the West Chester Republican, the Harrisburg Sentinel, and other Douglas papers, will apply the match of discord, and the whole thing will go off like gun-cotton, and take the October election and Foster up with it, [laughter;] and all confessed that when Curtin is chosen Governor, pruden-

tial considerations would be powerless to keep the Breckenridge, Douglas and Bell men from taking each other by the throats. But seeing that either way was death—that to stand still would involve both defeat and blame, and to go forward would involve defeat and disgrace, they chose the latter part, mainly, I presume, because the time was past when the cloud of disgrace could be made blacker over them. [Laughter and applause.] These few men—not forty in number—met at Harrisburg, self-invested with plenary powers to give or to withhold tens of thousands of honest voters of Pennsylvania, claiming to vote them for disunion, for free trade, for a slave code, for popular sovereignty, or for any thing else, as the interest of leaders should indicate. The name and the fame of John Bell was huckstered from market to market; now plunged into the gulf of free trade, and again into the whirlpool of disunion, and all with the hope of securing to a few reckless leaders a few petty offices in this city. Breckinridge and Douglas were traded in like manner, of course; but they have been trained by political jockeys, and were in their natural element. [Laughter and applause.] They were willing to hope every thing, to believe every thing, to promise every thing, and to cheat every thing, [shouts of laughter,] if they could only drag the Bell organization down with themselves to a dishonored grave, and bring it up at some future day, thoroughly infected with their own pollution, in a common resurrection. [Long continued applause.]

The fusion was made; a joint electoral ticket, composed of nine from each party, was determined upon; but it is to be kept very confidentially until the 12th of October, when, if Foster should be elected, it would be declared to the world; you will, of course, not divulge this fact, for it has been told in confidence to only about a thousand people in the State, [laughter,] and as it is to be kept a secret until Foster is elected Governor, it can't well be publicly made known for the next three years at least. [Shouts of laughter and applause.]

I entreat our political traders to make their fusion boldly and declare it to the world. Let your auction be held at once, and let it be done in open day. [Laughter and applause.] Who knows but outside bids might be had? [Laughter.] Who knows but we might take a few select lots, not because we are in great need of them, but, as Mrs. Toodles would say, because it might be convenient to have them about the house. [Shouts of laughter.] Why not have the current rates reported, so that the Merchants on 'Change could discuss the value of their own votes, as estimated and offered for barter by unprincipled leaders, along with Reading, Elmira and other fluctuating securi-

ties? [Laughter and applause.] Why not knock off Brodhead at once, in the Second District, and not cry "going," "going," "going," from day to day, to keep uneasy votes in the ranks for Foster? Why not openly resolve that Lehman is to go out of the way, and not go from Ward to Ward in the city and assure Bell men that he is going to be stabbed for the benefit of Judge King, but that it must be kept a profound secret? Why not throw off your thin disguise and make up your triple union, and throw your tri colored banner to the breeze? Thousands will revolt to-morrow as fiercely as they would to day. Thousands have already asserted their own manhood, and are turning with indignation upon their betrayers. Commerce is aroused to a sense of the humiliating position political huckstering proposed to place it in, and it will strike a decisive blow on Tuesday next, in vindication of its own honor and of the integrity of the Union. [Applause.] Let us understand this contest, and look at it in the face, for the time for disguise is past—the time for honest and earnest action is at hand; and daily and hourly confusion thickens on fusion, and wherever fidelity to principle and integrity to self has a resting place, there is raised the standard of revolt. On Tuesday night next, disaster and disgrace, alike in city and State, will complete the work of fusion, and there will scarcely be a living monument left in the general wreck, on which to inscribe "its brief but stained and chequered history. [Long continued applause.]

Who or what we shall have defeated when victory shall be streaming on our banners, I can scarcely tell. Whether Welsh, Roumfort or Fuller will throw up the sponge when Foster goes to grass [Laughter,] the future must determine. [Laughter and applause.] I doubt not that each will insist that the others had badly trained their common champion; that each will blame the others with the common overthrow, and a redeeming feature will be that each will tell the truth. [Prolonged laughter and applause.] And the whole Wide-Awake army of the State will not be more than sufficient, after the October Waterloo, to preserve the peace between the belligerent factions which have piled disaster upon each other. [Shouts of applause.]

Three weeks ago this City would have given a majority for Henry D. Foster. But Foster came, and in an earnest effort to prove that words were invented to conceal ideas, scattered his own discordant legions to the winds. [Applause.] The common bond of union—a division of the spoils—grew more and more complicated as the time came for a call of hands, and men fell by the wayside in legions, when the fearful fact stared the hucksters in the face that but one man could be elected to one office at one time.

[Laughter.] If it were possible to elect a full Bell ticket, and a full Breckinridge ticket, and a full Douglas ticket, at the same time, I think fusion would work, at least among the candidates, and a few other leaders; but, alas, offices are but few in number, candidates are abundant, and each has not less than nine lives when his head is brought to the fusion-block. [Laughter.] The utter disregard of principle, the unnatural association of men of deadly antagonism in political faith, and the disgraceful struggle to transfer merchants and mechanics hither and thither, to serve some mean ambition, has so demoralized the effort, that every man who claims his vote as his own, and wishes to cast it on his own account, must vote the People's ticket from top to bottom. [Applause and cries of "that's so."] Thus have thousands been sickened and driven away from the mongrel dealers, and on Tuesday next Philadelphia, this citadel of commerce, this home of workshops and factories, will join the State in giving a decisive majority for Curtin, and for a prosperous industry. [Applause.]

But it seems as if these reckless leaders meant to invoke upon themselves and their followers the mightiest thunderbolts of popular reprobation. Not content with throwing the black cloud of dishonor upon themselves, they now seek to blacken the character of the People's candidate for Governor. It is the last card—the death throes of expiring fusion. When it was supposed to be too late for successful contradiction, the *Evening Journal* assailed the private character of Colonel Curtin, in a tissue of falsehoods which bowed its own political friends with shame. Until a few days ago this contest was conducted with a degree of dignity and courtesy unprecedented in our political struggles, and I am glad to say, that Colonel Curtin and General Foster have yet to speak anything of each other that, in after years, they would wish to recall. Both have been uniformly kind and dignified, and lest some earnest partizan should do otherwise, each has borne the most cordial testimony to the good name and fame of the other. [Applause.]

To the hireling *Journal* was assigned this disgraceful task by its unscrupulous masters, and it had to perform their bidding. Had it been made an advocate of the People's cause and candidates, as *I could have made it*, it would to-day beslime Colonel Curtin with its deadly praise. [Shouts of applause.] It advocated his nomination; but Colonel Curtin was strong enough to triumph in the face of its advocacy. [Laughter and applause.] And when he was placed in nomination it cordially endorsed him; but fortunately its Swiss instincts then took possession of it, and from thence Colonel Curtin has never been cursed with its favor. [Shouts of applause.]

Soon after, a third organization was wanted in

Pennsylvania to play the part of tender to the Democracy. A party was found, and it was fitting that the *Journal* should be its organ. It performed its task with reasonable fidelity, until either increasing cupidity or a depleted employer's exchequer threw it upon the market again. It crossed my path with its price upon its forehead. [Deafening applause.] I was offered it by its present editor not over six weeks ago—paper, press, types and editor thrown in—to be converted into a Lincoln, Hamlin and Curtin organ, and to be edited in that cause, for a consideration, by the very man who to-day floods this city with the most bewildering calumnies upon Colonel Curtin. [Shouts of laughter and thunders of applause.] It was urged in support of the proposition by the editor, that the funds of the Bell party were almost exhausted, and if it should be purchased, another could not be started again. [Laughter and applause.] I declined the offer for many reasons. Our cause needed not a subsidized press, and least of all a journal blackened with its own venality, and an editor who, as he then proved, could not give even a title to himself. [Shouts of laughter.] To the credit of the press of Philadelphia, not one has imitated the Swiss organ in its vituperation. Even the *Pennsylvanian*, the mendicant organ of the Custom House and of Foster, has thus far been unable to swallow the *Journal's* vomit of defamation. [Long continued applause.]

The speaker then discussed the danger of a great commercial city entrusting its vast interests to the illiberal policy of the Democratic party. He said, as a legislator, in every liberal proposition looking to the advancement of your commerce, he had ever to brave the Democratic party in supporting Philadelphia; that even Henry D. Foster himself, when in the Legislature, could not rise above the fiat of his party, when Philadelphia implored for relief. He also very pointedly inquired whether, if Philadelphia should vote for illiberal Governors and legislators, it would not be fair to accept her verdict as a declaration in favor of the destructive policy of that party, and to carry it out in legislation. He said that, if they should do so, every merchant would appeal to the legislature, to save him from the very policy for which Philadelphia had voted. He made an earnest appeal in favor of the true interests of the merchants and manufacturers of the commercial emporium of the State.

In concluding he said—There is but one danger to the Union in the contest. It has stood against treason within, and open foes without; it has gone on in fulfilment of its noble mission, in defiance of the wanton agitation and sectional strife of the Democracy; but it has never been tested by an open, insolent defiance of the

popular will in the selection of its chief magistrate in order that a few reckless, irresponsible men may barter the destiny of this great Republic. [Applause] For less than this, Rome, once the proud mother of nations, now sits widowed in the ruins of her ancient Capitol, left of sceptre and of Empire; and History, that unerring monitor, points to wealth that has vanished, to commerce that has folded its wings, to Empires dismembered, entombed and epitaphed—all, all because mad ambition has perverted power. [Applause.] I have faith, abiding faith, in the perpetuity of this Union. We have seen our Constitution prostituted to an instrument of relentless despotism; we have seen our highest judicial tribunal convulsing the nation with political opinions, outside of the case before them, which threatens the freedom of our Territories; we have seen the wildest agitation, and all the insolence of disunion, threaten to

engulf our free labor in beggary and dishonor; we have seen corruption running riot in our high places, and profligacy involving the nation in bankruptcy; but yet our people still sustain this Union with a devotion worthy of freedom itself. [Applause.] The ivy will cling to and grow in perpetual freshness on the mouldering pile, and the green moss will live upon the chilling marble that marks the tomb; and so of every patriotic American heart. [Applause.] Although this free Government may be stripped of all its endearments but its honored name; although our boasted liberty should become but a byword and a shield for despotism, still to the Union every true heart will beat responsive, and trust, and plead, and struggle, for the day when it shall be recalled to Liberty and Union, to peaceful progress and fraternal love. [Long continued applause.]

COL. McCLURE AT THE WIGWAM AGAIN.

Fusion Entombed and Epitaphed.

THE MORAL OF THE VICTORY.

Philadelphia, October 13, 1860.

An immense and most enthusiastic meeting of the friends of Lincoln and Hamlin, met at the Wigwam again on Saturday evening, Gen. James Irvin in the chair. After the meeting was organized, Mr. McClure, Chairman of the People's State Committee, was introduced by the President, and received with deafening and protracted cheers. When order was restored, he said:

Pennsylvania has spoken, and a nation rejoices at its own disenfranchisement. [Applause.] The ray of hope that has at times dawned upon our beggared industry, and again gone out in darkness as the power of Democracy has asserted its supremacy, now breaks into the noon-day of promise, and gladness beams from thousands of eyes, which have long told in silent eloquence, the sad story of a faithless Government. [Protracted applause.]

The rich Western wilds, ordained by Nature's law as the abode of freedom, clad with beauty and teeming with richness, have been consecrated to free labor and the triumphs of peaceful progress by the solemn verdict of the great Keystone of the Federal Arch. [Cheers.] Sectionalism and disunionism, the twin relics of prostituted power, have heard the thunders of every loyal Pennsylvania, and hide their hideous heads in shame. [Shouts of applause.] The coming man, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, [deafening applause,] now well assured by the nation that in him its highest hopes centre, [applause,] is greeted by friend and foe, by North and South, as a FAITHFUL, HONEST MAN—as one whose rule will be enlightened, liberal, patriotic and just. [Deafening cheers for Lincoln.]

I rejoice with you at the election of Andrew

G. Curtin. [Loud and long cheers for Curtin.] He has neither place or official favor that I could desire, but I rejoice with the thousands and hundreds of thousands in Pennsylvania who struggle for him with a singleness of purpose, looking only to a faithful government and the redemption of a common country. [Applause.] He has discharged his whole duty in this great struggle. He unfurled his banner, declaring for truth and freedom to the people in every section of the State, and defended the right with ceaseless energy and matchless eloquence. [Applause.] Over one hundred times has he addressed the citizens of Pennsylvania, and never purposely concealed a conviction or a preference. He was the same to all men—for Lincoln, Hamlin and Curtin, [applause,] and the principles their friends advocate everywhere, whether in the giddy whirl of commerce or amongst the sturdy arms that drag forth the slumbering wealth of our mountains, or sow their seed and reap their rich harvests in our valleys. [Applause.] He has taken our standard, with our principles emblazoned on it in letters of living light, and borne it through sunshine and storm—through evil and good report—through fusion and confusion, and has returned it to us unsullied by a single stain of dishonor, and with victory streaming from its ample folds! [Applause.]

I know how high is the measure of public expectation; what rich fruits they hope for from this triumph. The State has a right to expect that the principles we have advocated shall be faithfully administered in the Government, and their full fruition enjoyed by our long suffering people; and I am proud to say that to this task Andrew G. Curtin is fully equal. [Applause.]

is to consecrate them to free labor, and plant them as new stars in the spangled galaxy of States upon our flag. [Deafening applause.] And it will go further still. It will proclaim to every clime the dignity of labor, and declare to the world that henceforth the settled policy of this mighty confederacy is to foster, to honor, and to requite the basis of all its greatness—its free industry. [Applause.] It will swell with emotion and pride thousands of free hearts that have been degraded by the menial labor of the slave by their side, and reassert the mandate of Him who created us, and bid us toil, by honoring those whose strong arms and willing hearts scatter beauty and bounty around us. [Applause.] It will plant free homes upon millions of acres now glowing in native richness. It will make the iron horse traverse the trackless prairies; it will point the spires of churches to Heaven, where the red man now shouts the war-whoop; it will bring golden harvests to swell the tide of your commerce; it will rear empire upon empire, to add to the common strength, the common glory of the Republic. [Protracted applause.]

These are the rich offerings of this great revolution, and they will invade no rights of sister States. The triumph will be a triumph for the whole Union. [Applause.] It will be a victory over sectionalism. The South may stand aside, and give no State to swell the achievement; but it will carry gladness to thousands and thousands of men who have long hoped for the dawn of this epoch upon our land. It will unshackle thought everywhere—make opinions free, and actions true to conviction in every section; and when it shall have crushed out fanaticism North and South, and stricken down those who have led the hosts of agitation, the crowning glory of this revolution will be lasting tranquility. [Applause.]

It will call ABRAHAM LINCOLN to the Presidency. [Deafening applause.] A true, tried and faithful man, he is equal, fully equal, to his high and sacred mission. [Applause.] The world has never before witnessed a great national contest in which the chieftains have defied the tongue of calumny. Clay was hunted to the tomb with the fiercest defamation, but malice has been powerless to assail the name and fame of Abraham Lincoln. [Shouts of applause.] He has gone through this embittered struggle without the breath of suspicion seeking to dim his integrity. That he is honest every tongue confesses, and he will bring to the administration of the government a mind stored with wisdom, a heart abounding in patriotism. He will be faithful to the whole Union. [Protracted applause.] If there is a man North or South who seeks to fling the banner of sectionalism over this mighty brotherhood of States, he is no friend of

Abraham Lincoln. [Applause.] He will terminate the mad career of sectionalism that has made Wrong insolent, and Right submissive; that has degraded labor, broken up the sacred landmarks of the Constitution, and plunged us into the maelstrom of fraternal strife. [Applause.] He will recognize a North, but never can be forgetful that the South has common claims with us upon the Government; that they are our brethren, bound to us by the ties of language, of blood, of interest, and all the hallowed memories of the past; and to them he will be just, and only just to all. [Shouts of applause.]

The speaker then discussed at some length the positions of Douglas and Breckinridge, showing that both were for free trade, and that both were the representative men of the wicked agitators who have disturbed the harmony of the country. He said Douglas had wantonly revived the agitation of the slavery question, by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise; and that Breckinridge was to-day the candidate of those who are constantly agitating the dismemberment of the Union. He said, however, that the time for concern about the dangerous doctrines of these men was past, for Pennsylvania and Indiana had settled the National contest against them. He alluded also to the character of the triumph—it was, he said, unstained by fraud, undimmed by purchase. The organization that had carried the cause of Lincoln, Hamlin and Curtin to victory in Pennsylvania had done so with clean hands, and meant to keep them so. [Applause.] Wherever the charge of fraud was preferred, whether by friend or foe, let the light of truth test the integrity of men, and let justice be done though the heavens fall. [Applause.]

In concluding, he said the Union has passed in safety the greatest danger in its history. It has escaped the peril of a fraud upon the people that would have thrown this nation of thirty millions with all its destinies, into the hands of a few who would have sold our liberties in the market places of power. It has passed the ordeal peacefully, and put to blush the timid and time-serving, who never dared to sustain the right. Stocks are firm in our Boards, credit was never stronger, men buy and sell where profits entice them, as they have ever done before, and as they will to the end of time; and all look to the coming man, Abraham Lincoln, [long continued applause] with unshaken confidence in his wisdom, his patriotism and his fidelity to the Union, and to the compromises of the Constitution. [Applause.] They look to his so clearly foreshadowed triumph, as the harbinger of domestic peace, of purity and frugality in every department of power, of a revived and regenerated industry, and as the inauguration, after years of painful discord, of an era of prosperity, of union, of tranquility. [Long continued applause.]